

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 452

By Sands

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mr. J. Frank Walker for outstanding public service.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the state of Tennessee should pause to pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who have given unselfishly of themselves, their time and their talents to perpetuate the public good; and

WHEREAS, Mr. J. Frank Walker is one such estimable public servant who has worked tirelessly in the beautification and preservation of Columbia through its Main Street Program; and

WHEREAS, born in Wayne County, and a graduate of Wayne County High School, Mr. Walker began delivering *The Memphis Press Scimitar* newspaper at the age of 8; and

WHEREAS, he came to Columbia in 1939 and worked during the summers with his brother-in-law, E. H. Griggs, who in 1946 became his partner in Southland Novelty Company; and

WHEREAS, they also owned General Equipment Sales and Service from 1948-1969, and developed several commercial real estate projects and built a number of restaurants in the Middle Tennessee area; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walker sold Southland Novelty Company in 1979, and since his retirement he has enjoyed renovating many buildings in downtown Columbia; and

WHEREAS; he also initiated the Main Street Program and was responsible for the Nashville Highway beautification project, which replaced unsightly thistles and other weeds with

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beautiful Bradford pear trees, adding immeasurably to the appearance of the city's major highway; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walker has been a moving force in the renovation and restoration of downtown buildings; the pride with which he maintains his buildings has set a standard for others in the community to emulate; and

WHEREAS, it is a standard that will continue well into the future as Mr. Walker's grandson, Steve, has joined him in the management of Walker Properties, thus ensuring the continuation of the Walker influence for the benefit of Columbia and its good citizens; and

WHEREAS, his achievements aside, Mr. Walker is most appreciative of the love and support he shares with his devoted wife of over 50 years, Jean; their children, Babs, an attorney, and Cathy, a veterinarian practicing in Columbia; and their three grandchildren, Stephen, Elizabeth and Issac; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walker is a 32nd degree Scottish Rite Mason, a 50-year member of the Al Menah Shrine Temple, and a 50-year member of the American Legion; and

WHEREAS, he was a member of the Columbia Rotary Club for over 25 years, during which he served with distinction on the Board for several years; and

WHEREAS, he is a Paul Harris Fellow and was twice named Rotarian of the Year; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Walker is a fitting example of a person totally committed to family and the highest ideals of public service and should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Mr. J. Frank Walker for his outstanding public service to the city of Columbia and extend to him our heartfelt thanks for a job well done.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.

